



# LEAH VUKMIR

## State Senator

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For Immediate Release

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### **Vukmir Special-Needs Scholarship Bill Passes Senate**

MADISON, Wis. — State Sen. Leah Vukmir's Special-Needs Scholarship Program technical bill passed the Wisconsin state Senate Tuesday.

Vukmir, R-Brookfield, and state Rep. John Jagler, R-Watertown, worked closely with stakeholders and the Department of Public Instruction while crafting Senate Bill 615 to ensure this new program will run smoothly next school year.

"It's been a major priority of mine, dating back to my Assembly days, to create this important opportunity for families with special-needs children, and I am thrilled that it will become reality next school year," Vukmir said. "Special-needs students have no reason to feel stuck in a school that fails them."

Wisconsin's new Special-Needs Scholarship Program was created in the 2015-17 biennial budget bill. Under the program, a student with special needs who has been denied open enrollment will be able to receive a voucher to attend a participating private school. Among other changes, this bill contains a five-year lookback provision, as originally intended for the program.

"A crucial component of this bill is that it allows families to apply for the program who, within the last five years, have found an alternative to public schools," Vukmir said. "Constituents who have been advocating for the special-needs scholarship for years who, sadly, were previously ineligible, will now qualify."

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